



## Dulles Direct Newsletter August 2015

Welcome to the August edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter, and welcome back to school! Today, over 75,000 students started their first day back in our system. I wish all of our students, teachers, faculty and parents a successful school year. As students head back to school this year, they'll be utilizing more technology than ever in our public schools-with upgraded infrastructure to support it. Many more will be attending full day kindergarten, which has been expanded to cover all at risk students and to others on a space available basis. As the County's rate of residential growth begins to slow, we can continue to make investments like this in our school system, especially if our torrid rate of commercial growth continues.

Back to school also means back to traffic, unfortunately. I've been in touch with VDOT about signal timings on Route 50. The new signals that have been installed have been loaded with signal programs that are reflective of the new traffic counts that were completed before school ended. VDOT engineers were on hand today to observe those new signal timings and traffic operations. Traffic was really, really rough, but there were two complicating factors: 1) an accident on 50 near the Loudoun/Fairfax line and 2) unusual commuting patterns due to back to school (traffic was not as dispersed as usual as a lot of parents

### In This Issue

[Dulles Landing Phase II](#)

[Loudoun #1 in Investment](#)

[Loudoun's Fastest Growing Companies](#)

[Whitman North Rezoning](#)

[Whitman South Rezoning](#)

[No Towers on 50](#)

[Claiborne Parkway](#)

[Ryan Road Shared Use Path](#)

[Announcements](#)

who normally leave early stayed home to see their kids off, resulting in more people than usual leaving at exactly the same time.) I know that we'll continue to work with VDOT to make adjustments. This fall, VDOT will be extending the merge lane at the Route 28 North/50 interchange in order to try and alleviate some of the backup that occurs almost every day in that spot.

This month we reached milestones on two long awaited projects. First, I was pleased to host the groundbreaking for the Dulles South Multipurpose Center recreation and senior center expansion. I was joined by Chairman Scott York, Supervisor Geary Higgins, Sheriff Mike Chapman as well as many County staff and volunteers. It was wonderful to see so many individuals who played a critical role in this 12-year effort, including Charlotte Nurge, former South Riding resident and Chair of the Commission on Aging; Kristen Reed, the Dulles District Representative and Vice Chair of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board; Jeff Salmon, the Dulles District Representative and Chair of the Planning Commission; Vernon Wong, Chair of the Dulles South Senior Center Advisory Board; and so many others. Site work is well underway and the project is expected to take 20 months to complete.



I also cut the ribbon on the start of Metro service from the newly completed East Gate Park and Ride this



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month. Following the ribbon cutting, I took the bus to the Reston-Wiehle Avenue Station and used the Silver Line for my commute to and from DC that day. As you'll recall, I obtained funding to begin this service ahead of schedule using contract buses, since the buses purchased by the County for this service have been delayed until next year due to a manufacturing backlog. Since the service is a contract service, the fare is cash only (\$1.00 one way) at this time. More information on the schedule for service at the East Gate Park and Ride can be found [here](#).



I was also pleased to take a construction tour of our new StoneSprings Hospital last week with the Hospital's CEO, Mark Rader. We witnessed flooring being installed, walls being painted, and operating room equipment ready to be installed. The medical office building is already at 95% occupancy. I'm very excited for the hospital's opening in December. This will improve Dulles South residents' access to quality care, create 500 new jobs and generate \$2.1 million in tax revenue.

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Also last week, I participated in the ribbon cutting for Freedom High School's new addition with Superintendent Eric Williams, Dulles District School Board Member Jeff Morse, Principal Doug Fulton and Freedom students. This \$5,010,000 project adds 13,000 square feet including: two science classrooms, seven standard classrooms, one large multi-purpose room, one conference room and two storage rooms.





Finally, my Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report will be arriving in your mailbox soon. I'm sending this document later this year than normal because I wanted to include the latest information on the power line issue. I encourage you to open it and take a look-there are updates on numerous projects and issues.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

### **Dulles Landing Phase II**

Beatty Companies has filed a request for changes to their second phase of development. The second phase would encompass the southern portion of the property and add in an adjacent 12 acre parcel that they have acquired at the corner of 606 and Rt. 50.

While the application is still in the staff review stages and it likely won't be seen by the Board for several months, I met with the developer earlier this year to discuss their vision. Their goal is to add an additional 180,000 square feet of retail to their already approved 800,000 total square feet. They are also looking to incorporate a community plaza and soccer field to the development.

I will update you as it moves through the review process as there are some questions on impacts to the future interchange at the 606 and Rt. 50 intersection. And, of course, the power lines on 50 would have an impact as well.

### **Loudoun #1 in Investment**

As I shared on my Facebook page last month, New York based SmartAsset revealed that Loudoun is the [happiest county in America](#) - or at least the County with the best quality of life metrics. Now SmartAsset has looked at the amount of investment in each county.

They factored in each area's growth in business establishments, GDP, new building permits and municipal bond investment. Loudoun ranked #1 in

Virginia, meaning that there has been more investment here than any other county in the Commonwealth. See the report here:

<https://smartasset.com/investing/investment-calculator#virginia>.

### **Loudoun Companies make Inc. Magazine's Fastest-Growing Private Companies List**

Twenty-six Loudoun County companies made Inc. Magazine's 2015 list of the fastest-growing private companies in the U.S. Twelve of those companies made the lists for the first time. This is an 18 percent increase over the number of Loudoun companies that made the list last year, and is an 85 percent increase over Inc.'s 2013 list. As Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, we have worked hard to create an atmosphere conducive to growth for businesses here in Loudoun County, and it is gratifying to see that paying off with so many companies experiencing high growth.

### **Whitman North Rezoning Update**

As I shared with you last month, action on this application has been deferred until the September 16th Board of Supervisors meeting. I requested this deferral so that the Board can see the actual attendance numbers at Dulles South area schools, especially Liberty Elementary. This would give us a better idea on the actual enrollment at Liberty. We don't have plans for a new elementary school until 2019, so if projections are off by a significant margin, we will really be in a crunch and that will impact how I view this application.

I have heard from some of you with your thoughts regarding this proposal to build 238 homes on the northeast quadrant of the Gum Spring and Braddock intersection, and the feedback has been mixed. The major proffer is a more than \$4 million upgrade to this intersection. Unfortunately, this may be the only opportunity to make improvements to the intersection within the next six years due to the number of other

road projects and capital facilities already programmed within the County's debt capacities.

If you would like to weigh in on the proposal before the vote, please feel free to contact me at [matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov](mailto:matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov).

### **Whitman South Update**

Another application submitted at the Gum Spring and Braddock intersection proposes to rezone the southeast corner from Transitional Residential (TR) to commercial. The application requests approval of a 35,000 square foot retail center including a grocery store tenant, a convenience store with gas pumps, and a child care center.

The Planning Commission has recommended approval, but Planning Department staff does not support the application. The basis for the staff objection is that the proposal is not compatible with surrounding land use and that the size, scale, and use are not envisioned in the Transition Zone.

The Board generally likes to see the conversion of residential properties to commercial uses due to the tax revenue benefits and lower stress on our school capacity. That said, it needs to be the right use in an appropriate location and the question is whether this use meets the vision we have for the Braddock Road corridor. I am already aware of a similar proposal that is coming for the southwest corner. One factor is that the property immediately to the east of this one will be Pope Paul VI High School, so it probably isn't realistic to expect this property to remain undeveloped or residential.

This application will be before the Board at our next Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 9th beginning at 6:00pm. The Public Hearing is held at the County Government Center (1 Harrison Street SE in Leesburg) and you can sign up to speak in advance by calling 703-777-0200 or sign up the night of the hearing as long as you arrive prior to that item being taken up by the Board.

## **DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES**

### **No Towers on 50**

The County found out earlier this month that the SCC granted our request to postpone the local hearings on Dominion's power line project. The County along with the other respondents sought to have Dominion study the proposed alternatives. SCC staff supported that proposal, although Dominion opposed much of the request. Dominion did not object to including two of the County's proposed routes, Alternatives 1b and 2b, in the Commission's review of their application. In their most recent filing, Dominion acknowledged that those two alternatives do appear viable from a routing and electrical perspective. Dominion has taken those conceptual routes and turned them into potential transmission solutions with more detailed routing alignments.

However, Dominion still does not actually support these alternatives and is sticking with their Route 50 proposals as their preference. Also, Dominion objects to the County's other proposals for several different reasons.

It is important to note that these objections were not unexpected, and are part of the legal process. They do not represent the final word on the subject.

With the hearings postponed, we will have more time to respond to Dominion's filing and more time for the community to get engaged on this issue. If you haven't already done so, please visit [www.notowerson50.org](http://www.notowerson50.org) to learn about how you can get involved and sign the petition against the proposed route that is before the SCC for review. I will let you know as soon as the hearings are rescheduled.

### **Claiborne Parkway Project Update**

The long delayed right of way acquisition for the Claiborne Parkway project has now been completed! As I shared in prior newsletters, the County had a



lengthy negotiation with the Forest Manor HOA. However, I'm pleased to report that the issues have been resolved and the County recently closed on the property needed.

The bid documents have been waiting for the final piece of right of way and will be released this fall. I expect that a contract will be awarded over the winter allowing work to begin next spring. This project will complete the missing link of Claiborne Parkway between Croson Lane and Ryan Road and I have been told that it will take about a year to construct so; we expect completion in early 2017.

#### **Ryan Road Shared Use Path Update**

Also related to the Claiborne Parkway construction is the Ryan Road Shared Use Path. This path is a paved trail for pedestrians and bicycle use and will be constructed along the northern side of Ryan Road connecting an existing trail at Belle Terra with one that ends at Brambleton.

VDOT is administering the project with Arthur Construction as contractor. They expect completion of the portion outside of the Claiborne Parkway construction area by the end of 2015. The portion within the Claiborne project limits will be complete at the time that project ends.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Services Blood Pressure Screenings**

Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Services will be providing blood pressure screenings at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center on Tuesday, September 1st, 10:00am to 12:00pm. The Multipurpose Center is located at 24950 Riding Center Drive in South Riding.

#### **DMV2GO at Dulles South Public Safety Center on September 4th**

The DMV2GO mobile customer service center will be at the Dulles South Public Safety Center on Friday, September 4th, 9:00am to 4:00pm. The Dulles South Public Safety Center is located at 25216 Loudoun County Parkway in South Riding.

The mobile customer service center allows residents to apply for or renew your ID card (available for adults and children), apply for or renew your driver's license, update your DMV information, obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals, and transcripts, order disabled parking placards or plates and other services.

DMV2GO is a fleet of five mobile customer service centers ready to bring DMV services to Virginians at convenient locations. For more information on this program and the services provided, please visit [www.dmvNOW.com](http://www.dmvNOW.com).

**Open House on Proposed Changes to the  
Countywide Transportation Plan Regarding  
Evergreen Mills Road**

The Loudoun County Planning and Zoning Department will host an Open House regarding proposed changes to the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) for Evergreen Mills Road from Loudoun County Parkway to Northstar Boulevard. The Open House will be held at 6:30pm (staff presentation at 6:45pm) on September 10th in the Library at Creighton's Corner Elementary located at 23171 Minerva Drive in Brambleton.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM), initiated by the Board of Supervisors, proposes establishing a new CTP segment for Evergreen Mills Road from Belmont Ridge Road to Northstar Boulevard and revising the ultimate CTP condition (road width) of Evergreen Mills Road in that segment. The proposed changes are in response to results of a recent transportation study which showed that adding an Evergreen Mills Road connection to Northstar Boulevard would improve access to Dulles Airport from western Loudoun County and reduce

traffic on Tall Cedars Parkway, Braddock Road, and Route 50.

### **Recruiting New Members for the Economic Development Advisory Commission**

The Board of Supervisors seeks candidates for the Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) who are willing to volunteer their time and expertise to promote the economic growth and development of Loudoun County. Applications should be submitted by Friday, September 18, 2015, for consideration.

The EDAC provides a forum through which Loudoun business leaders offer recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Economic Development on matters that impact the economic strength of the county.

Members are sought from all parts of the business community. Those who work in the following industries focused on by the Department of Economic Development are particularly encouraged to apply: health information and analytics, aerospace, and information and communications technology.

Applicants must fill out the standard application form available on the county's website at [www.loudoun.gov/advisory](http://www.loudoun.gov/advisory). The form may be submitted by email to: [BOS@loudoun.gov](mailto:BOS@loudoun.gov), or mailed to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, 1 Harrison Street, S.E, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000.

To learn more about the EDAC, visit [biz.loudoun.gov](http://biz.loudoun.gov).

### **Community Services Board Seeking Volunteers**

The Loudoun County Community Services Board (CSB) is in need of volunteers. The CSB, oversees the programs and services of the Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services (MHSADS), sets departmental policy and procedures, and determines priorities as mandated by the state of Virginia.

For more information visit [www.loudoun.gov/csb](http://www.loudoun.gov/csb).

### **Loudoun Introduces Discount Cards for Prescriptions, Health & Dental Care**

Loudoun County has launched three new programs to help county residents better manage the cost of prescription medications and health and dental services. As a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo), the county is able to offer the Prescription Discount, Health Discount and Dental Discount programs to residents. The program provides savings of up to 75 percent on prescriptions and 15 to 50 percent on health and dental services.

The programs can be used by residents who do not have insurance and by those whose insurance does not cover the prescriptions or services they need. There are no annual limits placed on use, no forms to fill out, no waiting periods, no age or income requirements and no medical condition restrictions.

The Prescription, Health and Dental Discount programs, which are administered by CVS Caremark, include discounts on prescription medications, dental services, vision care, LASIK & PRK vision procedures, hearing aids & screenings, prepaid lab work, prepaid diagnostic imaging and diabetic supplies. Residents can begin saving on prescriptions as soon as they receive a discount card. For health services, memberships are available on a monthly or annual subscription basis for both individuals and families and discounts are available immediately upon enrollment.

The discount card can also be used to save money on pet medications that have to be purchased at a pharmacy. The card is accepted at 65,000 pharmacies nationwide including all the major chains such as Wal-Mart, CVS, Walgreens, Giant, Safeway and Rite Aid. Participating pharmacies also include most community-based, independent pharmacies.

The free discount cards may be used by all Loudoun County residents, regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. The discount cards are available at Loudoun County facilities, including the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, S.E. in Leesburg; the Shenandoah Building, 102 Heritage Way, N.E. in Leesburg; the Loudoun County Public Library, community centers, and other customer service areas in county facilities. The prescription and health discount cards can also be printed from [www.nacorx.org](http://www.nacorx.org) or by calling toll-free 1-877-321-2652. Information also is online at [www.loudoun.gov/prescriptiondiscountcards](http://www.loudoun.gov/prescriptiondiscountcards).

### **Dulles South Food Pantry**

The Dulles South Food Pantry is a multi-faith emergency food pantry. They provide nutritious food, personal supplies and other services to those in need in Dulles South and the surrounding area that come to them regardless of income, faith or other criteria. They are an all-volunteer organization focused both on feeding the hungry and promoting the self-sufficiency of those they serve. Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry are tax deductible. The Dulles South Food Pantry needs canned chicken & tuna; soups and stews with protein; 2 or 5 lbs. bags of rice or rice mixes; pasta; boxed potatoes; breakfast cereal and pancake mix; granola bars; fruit (in cans, plastic or dried); canned beans; pasta sauce (no glass please); seasoning packets; toothpaste; shampoo; and grocery store gift cards in any amount. They are now able to accept food donations at Dulles South Multipurpose Center located at 24950 Riding Center Drive in South Riding, Virginia during business hours. The Dulles South Food Pantry is open to distribute food the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month from 5 pm to 8 pm located at 24757 Evergreen Mill Road, Dulles VA 20166. For additional information please visit their website at [www.dsfp.org](http://www.dsfp.org).

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